(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) and (b) The ICAR has established the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala, which does research on various aspects of coconut cultivation, production and post-harvest management. However, a proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for establishing a Coconut Fibre Technological Institute in Kerala on 29.8.02

(c) and(d) The State Government was informed in 2002 that since Ministry of Industries, Government of India has established Coir Board to promote Indian Coir Industry and two Research Institutes *viz*. Central Coir Research Institute, Kalavoor, Alleppy (Kerala) and Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT), Bangalore (Karnataka) are functioning under the Coir Board, the research as required can be conducted in collaboration with these institutes.

Sick units of FCI

†92.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units functioning under Fertilizer Corporation of India in the country which are sick or closed or proposed to be closed down;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the causes of their sickness or closure; if so, whether there is any proposal of handing over these closed units to private sector to make them functional, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of fertilizers produced in all the public sector units this year and whether it can meet the requirement in our country; and

(d) if not, the initiatives Government are taking to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) Fertilizer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Corporation of India (FCI) has its units at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), Sindri (Jharkhand), Talcher (Orissa), Korba (Chhattisgarh) and Jodhpur Mining Organisation (JMO) (Rajasthan). All units of FCI except JMO, which has been demerged into a new company under the name of "FCI Aravalli Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd.", have been closed down as per the Government decision as they were not found techno-economically viable. In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is being re-examined based on market demand and their techno-economic viability.

(c) and (d) The PSUs have produced 29.49 lakh MT of Nitrogenous and 2.84 lakh MT of Phosphatic fertilizers during 2003-04. The PSUs contribute only part of the total demand and rest is met by production from cooperatives/private companies as well as through imports.

Subsidy on fertilizers

93. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minsiter of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering decrease in the amount of subsidies on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of fertilizer subsidy paid during the last five years and proposed to be paid during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to decrease subsidy/concession on fertilizers. The amount of subsidy/